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Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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(213) 351-5602

August 12, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CREATE A BLANKET VARIOUS VENDOR
DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE (DE) FOR EDUCATIONAL/VOCATIONAL
TRAINING AND HOUSING RELATED SERVICES FOR
EMANCIPATING FOSTER YOUTH
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to establish a Departmental Expenditure (DE) for the payment of educational, vocational and housing related services for Independent Living Program (ILP) eligible youth. The DCFS FY 2003-04 Budget includes \$1 million for educational services; \$1 million for vocational services; and \$500,000 for housing related services (for a total of \$2.5 million), to be paid to various vendors. These services are financed by Federal ILP funds at no Net County Cost (NCC).
2. Authorize on-going DE payment methodology commensurate with future ILP funding and consistent with ILP fiscal guidelines.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to request authorization to establish a payment system that will allow ILP youth to choose and pay for their educational, vocational, and housing related services. Educational programs selected by the youth

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must be credentialed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Youth may seek to enroll in vocational training agencies certified by the California Post Secondary Commission, the Bureau for Private Post Secondary and Vocational Education, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) or other sanctioned legal certifying body. In addition, the vocational schools have a proven record of accomplishments in apprenticeship training and employment placement programs for ILP youth. ILP eligible youth must receive written approval under the ILP self-selection educational program guidelines prior to enrolling in these education/vocational programs.

Housing related services may include apartment or dorm expenses, food and transportation costs related to educational pursuits and must be consistent with established ILP guidelines.

Annually, some 600 ILP eligible youth select from a variety of educational institutions or vocational schools and housing related services, throughout the Country. As such, the process of DCFS entering into a contract with each of these vendors would be prohibitive. By establishing a blanket various vendor DE for these services, youth will have multiple options in selecting a service which meets their unique educational, vocational and housing needs.

This Approval in no way obligates the County or Department to authorize payment to any specific vendor.

Implementation Of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with furthering the principles of the County Strategic Plan by ensuring access to emancipation and post-emancipation services (Goal # 1- Service Excellence, Strategy #1 – Implement user-friendly services and Goal #5 – Children and Families Well-Being - Improve the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and educational/workforce readiness).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The \$2.5 million cost for the educational, vocational training and housing related services will be funded 100% through the Federal ILP, established under the 1999 Chafee Foster Youth Independence Act and amended, January 2002. The Board authority establishing the Blanket DE for these educational, vocational and housing related services requires no NCC.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Federal Independent Living Act funds, predecessor to the 1999 Chafee Foster Youth Independence Act, have been earmarked for employment, education and housing related activities since 1987.

In January 2002, the Chafee Foster Youth Independent Act was amended to add additional funding for educational and training vouchers.

The ILP is designed to provide educational, vocational, housing, and employment assistance to ILP youth ages 14 through 21 to prepare them to become self-sufficient and capable of living independent adult lives.

For many years, community based vocational programs as well as colleges and universities have provided training, employment preparation and internships for emancipating youth in the Airline, Customer Service, Medical and Dental Industries. As a result of these opportunities many emancipating youth have careers which enable them to live as independent, productive adults. Within the last year, many youth have selected to attend the Fast Track LA employment training program. Fast Track LA is an excellent example of an agency that has been innovative in providing employment preparation training as well as paid "On the Job Training" (OJT).

One way to ensure ILP eligible youth have continuous and seamless services, is to have a vendor payment process that will allow youth to self-select educational, vocational and housing related services.

County Fiscal Manual, Section 4.1.5.2 allows for expenditures required by State Statutes, Court order or formal action by the Board of Supervisors and not covered by a specific contract to be processed as Departmental Expenditures (DE) and encumbered against the Department's appropriation.

This Board Letter has been reviewed by the Chief Administrative Office, Auditor-Controller and Internal Services Department and approved as to form by County Counsel.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

No solicitation process is required for the requested actions.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the recommended action will allow approximately 600 emancipated youth annually to pursue education, vocational and career oriented opportunities from numerous vendors who offer these services.

CONCLUSION

Upon the approval of this recommendation by your Board, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send a copy of the adopted Board Letter to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Attention: Walter Chan, Contract Manager
425 Shatto Place, Room 205
Los Angeles, California 90020
2. County Counsel, Children's Services
Attention: Rose Belda, Senior Deputy County Counsel
201 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, California 91754-2143
3. Department of Children and Family Services
Attention: Michael Olenick, Chief
Emancipation Services Division
3530 Wilshire Boulevard, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90010

Sincerely,

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

DS:PVF
MO:cmw

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel